

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 13, 19, and 25 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1-5, 8-10, 13, 14, 16-22, and 25-27 are pending and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18-22, 25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Goto et al. (JP 62-267985). These rejections are traversed.

Briefly, it is noted that claim 1 recites a disk cartridge, comprising a case to contain a disk including an aperture, a portion of which extends to and around an edge of the case, through which optical access to at least one of opposing surfaces of the disk is possible, and a member including at least one window to allow for the optical access to the at least one of the opposing surfaces of the disk and an end to form either a bridge from one window to the other and/or to fill the portion of the aperture located around the edge of the case, the member being attachable to and detachable from the case, wherein, when attached to the case, the member fits substantially entirely within the aperture.

Claim 19 recites similar subject matter but additionally recites that the case includes upper and lower surfaces, each surface including an aperture, a portion of which extends to and around an edge of the case, through which optical access to at least one of a pair of opposing surfaces of the disk is possible. Claim 25 also recites similar subject matter as claim 1 but additionally recites a pickup provided with a lens, to emit light onto the disk through the at least one window.

Conversely, the reference to Goto discloses an optical disk media device having two separate attachable/detachable window members 13 and 14. Applicants note that nothing in the reference indicates a physical connection between the window members 13 and 14 such as the claimed "end to form either a bridge from one window to the other and/or to fill the portion of the aperture located around the edge of the case." Applicants further note that nothing in the reference discloses that either of the members 13 and 14 extends to and around the edge of the device. Thus, Goto fails to disclose the member as claimed. Specifically, Goto fails to disclose the claimed end to form either a bridge from one window to the other and/or to fill the portion of the aperture located around the edge of the case.

Thus, applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 9, and 25 are patentably distinguished

from the reference to Goto. Therefore, the rejections of these claims are believed to be overcome.

Regarding the rejections of claims 2, 4, 5, 10, 20-22, and 27, it is noted that these claims depend from claims 1, 19, and 25 and are, thus, patentably distinguished from the reference for at least the reasons discussed above. Therefore, the rejections of these claims are also believed to be overcome.

Noting that claim 13 recites the features of the member (i.e., that the member includes a pair of windows and an end to connect the windows in a substantially parallel arrangement) but does not additionally recite the features relating to the case (i.e., the aperture) as in claims 1, 19, and 25, applicants assert that claim 13 is nonetheless patentably distinguished from the reference to Goto. This assertion is based at least upon the fact that Goto does not disclose that the windows member 13 and 14 are connected by an end as discussed above. Therefore, the rejection of claim 13 is believed to be overcome.

Regarding the rejections of claims 14, 16, and 18, it is noted that these claims depend from claim 13 and that, therefore, the rejections of these claims are believed to be overcome for at least the reasons noted above.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 8, 9, 17 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Goto et al. However, in view of the fact that the independent claims upon which these claims depend are patentably distinguished from the reference, as discussed above, applicants respectfully assert that these rejections are overcome.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

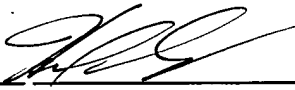
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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